**Informative Research Product Organizer**

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| **Research Topic: Alexander Calder and Kinetic Art** |

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| **Focusing Statement: Alexander Calder started kinetic sculpture, it has now grown into a large field of art.** |

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| **Essential Background Information for Introduction:**  **What kinetic sculpture is**  **-sculpture incorporating movement of some kind**  **-can be natural movement i.e. Wind, water, gravity powered etc.**  **-or motorized movement**  **What a mobile is and what a stabile is**  **-mobile is a hanging structure with places that catch the wind, making it move**  **-stabile is Calder’s giant metal structures commissioned by governments and world’s fairs and such** |

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| **Potential Hook/Grabber (**Story, anecdote, quote about your issue**):**  **Say what kinetic sculpture is, show some video of interesting kinetic sculptures** |

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| **Topic 1: Calder’s Beginnings** | |
| **Explanation**  **Both parents were artists** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Mother, Nanette Lederer Calder was accomplished painter**  **Father(Alexander Stirling Calder) and grandfather(Alexander Milne Calder) were sculptors, grandfather made the William Penn on top of city hall**  **Exposed Calder to a lot of art and artistic ideas** |
| **Explanation**  **When he was a boy, made himself toys and gadgets etc.** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Was always making things with his hands, out of wood, metal, wire, etc**  **Show picture of *Dog,* 1909**  **Show picture of *Duck,* 1909** |
| **Explanation**  **Trained as an engineer in college**  **Trained as an artist after college** | **Evidence /Quotes:**  **Stevens institute of Technology in Hoboken**  **After graduation, spent time in a number of different jobs, had a growing interest in art until he finally joined the**  **Art Students league in NYC** |

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| **Topic 2: Calders’s Rise to popularity** | |
| **Explanation**  **Calder’s famous circus**  **A circus made of wire, wood, rubber, buttons, bottle caps, fabric etc. little sculptures of elements of the circus that would move when Calder controlled them, performing circus acts etc** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Made after sketching a Circus for National Police Gazette**  **Made from wire, wood, rubber, buttons, bottle caps, fabric etc.**  **Gave shows to people, gained massive popularity, and attention of artists of the time such as Piet Mondrian(black lines and bold colors) and Thomas Wolfe**  **(show a video of the circus in action)** |
| **Explanation**  **1929 first solo show in Paris, displaying wood and wire sculptures made during and after the circus** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **3d wire portraits of people, of cows, animals etc**  **Invited to exhibit with art group Abstraction-Creation (a French art group of the period)**  **Displayed in an exhibit in MOMA**  **Show pictures of wire portraits, Josephine Baker** |
| **Explanation**  **1931 began to create his famous mobiles (hanging sculptures of bright colors and natural movement)** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **He got his inspiration from the colors from Piet Mondrian (show a pic of his work as example)**  **Tried motor driven mobiles at first, didn’t like the predictability of them, went to natural, air driven movement that was always interesting.**  **(show pics of early mobiles)** |

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| **Topic 3: International Popularity** | |
| **Explanation**  **Displayed all over us and Europe in 30s and 40s, population continued to rise after that as more and more people became interested in his artwork and he showed in more places** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Shows in NY, Paris, National Gallery** |
| **Explanation**  **Had many commissions from organizations for large public works**  **A commission is when a person or organization hires an artist to make a piece for them** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Brussels world’s fair, Braniff airlines, UNESCO HQ, Kennedy international airport, he also made jewelry, sets for plays, and painted a car for BMW**  **(show pictures for all or most of these)** |

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| **Topic 4:**  **Kinetic Sculpture today/Calder’s Impact** | |
| **Explanation**  **Reuben Margolin** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Hanging waves, standing waves**  **Seeks to capture motion of nature, waves in nature**  **Feels that artists try to capture the structure or the beauty of nature**  **Similar to carders ideals, showing the movement of the air through the mobiles**  **(video of some of the waves)** |
| **Explanation**  **Theo Jansen** | **Evidence/Quotes:**  **Strandbeest**  **Beach walkers**  **Move under power from the wind, the goal is to create mechanically self sufficient creatures that will not need his influence after they are born**  **Wind powered, like calders, mechanical but not motorized and predictable, free moving but on the ground, similar to Calder’s ideas**  **(show some video on these)** |
| **Explanation**  **Atlanta kinetic artists from video** | **Evidence /Quotes:**  **Shows how broad the subject has become, each meaning different things to the artists, many use the wind for power, just like Calder, have large areas that the viewer can experience from inside, similar to Calder’s large sculptures**  **Show examples of the sculptures from the video** |